

Kohl's to open larger store at former site - 62, - Milwaukee Journal Sentinel (WI) - June 8, 1999 - page 3
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Kohl's Food Stores Inc. plans to open a new supermarket at the northeast corner of W. Appleton and W. Hampton avenues -- where the company closed a smaller supermarket in February.

The new Kohl's -- at nearly 62,000 square feet -- will be much larger than the 35,000-square-foot, under-performing store that closed earlier this year, said Sigurd Strautmanis, of General Capital Group.

Mequon-based General Capital will own the building and lease it to Kohl's. Construction is to begin in September, with the store likely to open by August 2000.

"This is a whole different animal," Strautmanis told the Milwaukee Plan Commission, which Monday approved a zoning change to accommodate the new supermarket.

The supermarket will use a 70,000-square-foot building at 8338-8340 W. Appleton Ave. that will be extensively remodeled, Strautmanis said. That building previously housed both a Kohl's supermarket and a Kohl's Corp. department store, which closed in January.

In addition to improving the building, General Capital will add landscaping to the parking lot and build a separate retail property with about 15,000 square feet, Strautmanis said. The main building and the smaller building will be separated by the parking lot.

The entire development will cost around \$11 million, Strautmanis said.

Executives for Kohl's couldn't be reached for comment.

Kohl's corporate parent -- Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. -- said in December it would open 175 to 200 new stores over three years and close or sell 127 smaller, underperforming stores in 1999.

As part of that strategy, Kohl's earlier this year closed the Appleton Ave. store, along with stores at 5500 W. Capitol Drive, 15740 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield, 6800 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, and 1957 Washington Ave., Grafton.

In addition to the new Appleton Ave. store, Kohl's has stores under development at 6540 Monona Blvd., Monona, near Madison; the northwest corner of Mequon and Pilgrim roads, Germantown; the northwest corner of state Highway 164 and Capitol Drive, Pewaukee; and 1123 N. Van Buren St., next to the Juneau Village Apartments.

The new stores will all have in-store pharmacies and banks and an expanded range of departments that include floral, bakery, deli and seafood. The new, larger supermarkets typically have around 250 employees each.

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